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In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A locking mechanism for controlling engagement between parts movable relative to one another in medical sharp devices, the mechanism comprising: a retainer part for retaining a medical sharp, the retainer part having a first formation which is engageable with a second formation located on a body part of a medical sharp device and a connector part which is movable relative to the body part to a position in which the connector part and retainer part are in a mutually engaged configuration, wherein the connector part, during movement to the engaged configuration, is adapted to alter the relative engagement between the first and second formations to enable release of the retainer part from the body part, the retainer part including two flexible legs, each leg having a said first formation located thereon, the connector part being adapted to flex the legs, on engagement with the retainer part, to move the legs towards one another, ~~characterized by the legs being mutually joined at~~ respective distal ends thereof before movement of the connector part to the engaged configuration, the legs being arranged to disengage from the body part when moving toward one another.
2. (Original) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1 in which the first formation and second formation comprise a lug and a recess, each being formed on or in one of the retainer part and the body part.
3. (Original) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 2 in which a pair of said lugs are provided on opposite sides of the retainer part and in which the recess comprises an internal annular recess in the body part.
- 4.-6. (Canceled).

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7. (Previously Presented) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1 in which the legs form a diamond shape.
8. (Previously Presented) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1 in which each leg has an inner surface and an outer surface, the outer surface being longer than the inner surface.
9. (Original) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 8 in which the inner surface is relatively flat and the outer surface is outwardly concave or relatively curved compared to the inner surface.
10. (Previously Presented) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1 in which the connector part includes a bore into which at least part of the retainer part is insertable.
11. (Original) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 10 in which the bore includes an annular ledge at an entrance thereto, and in which the retainer part includes at least one connector protrusion for engagement behind the annular ledge.
12. (Original) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 11 in which two said connector protrusions are provided, the connector protrusions being adapted to engage the annular ledge asymmetrically.
13. (Previously Presented) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 12 in which each connector protrusion has a chamfered surface for riding over the annular ledge and an opposing step surface for engagement behind the ledge.

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14. (Previously Presented) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1 in which the retainer part is adapted to retain a hypodermic needle, the retainer part including an elongate bore passing therethrough, the bore being engageable with a cylindrical outer surface of a needle.

15. (Original) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 14 in which the elongate bore includes internal ribs for sealingly gripping a needle.

16. (Currently Amended) A locking mechanism for a medical device comprising a retainer part for retaining medical sharp devices, the retainer part including at least one connector portion thereof adapted for engagement against a body part of a medical sharp device, and a connector part, the connector part being adapted for movement to engage the connector portion for connection therewith, movement of the connector part once connected to the connector portion causing movement of the retainer part, the connector portion comprising two flexible legs, the connector part being adapted to flex the legs, on engagement with the connector portion, to move the legs towards one another, characterized by the legs being mutually joined at respective distal ends thereof the legs being mutually joined at respective distal ends thereof before movement of the connector part to the engaged configuration, the legs being arranged to disengage from the body part when moving toward one another.

17.-18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 16 in which the legs are joined together in a diamond shape.

20. (Previously Presented) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 16 in which each said leg includes a formation adapted for engagement with a recess formed in the body part.

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21. (Previously Presented) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 16 in which the connector part includes a generally cylindrically bore, the bore being adapted to receive each said leg on engagement of the connector part therewith.

22. (Original) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 21 in which the bore includes an annular ledge at an entrance thereto and each said leg includes a connector projection adapted to ride over the lock past the ledge on insertion to the bore.

23.-36 (Canceled).

37. (Previously Presented) A medical device including a needle assembly as claimed in claim 16.

38. (Previously Presented) A medical device including a locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1.

39. (Original) A medical device as claimed in claim 38 which comprises a hypodermic needle device.

40. (Original) A medical device as claimed in claim 39 which comprises a butterfly.

41. (Original) A medical device as claimed in claim 39 which comprises a catheter.

42. (Original) A medical device as claimed in claim 39 which comprises a hypodermic syringe and in which the retainer part is adapted to retain a hypodermic needle of the device and the connector part is mounted on a plunger of the syringe.

43.-44. (Canceled).

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45. (Previously Presented) A medical device as claimed in claim 42 in which the syringe includes a barrel, a conical shoulder portion at a forward end of a main cylindrical part of the barrel and a neck portion in front of the shoulder portion, the said second formation of the locking mechanism being formed internally in the neck portion.

46. (Original) A medical device as claimed in claim 45 in which the neck portion of the barrel includes a front end and a rear end, the rear end being adjacent a front end of the shoulder portion, the second formation comprising an annular internal recess formed at the rear end of the neck portion.

47. (Previously Presented) A medical device as claimed in claim 38 in which the retainer part is removably mounted on the body part of the device.

48. (Previously Presented) A medical device as claimed in claim 47 in which the retainer part is removably mounted on the body part of the device, and which includes a hub part for releasably sealably retaining the retainer part on the barrel of the syringe.

49. (Original) A medical device as claimed in claim 48 in which the hub includes a stop surface for preventing forward movement of the retainer part relative to the barrel.

50.-56 (Canceled).

57. (Previously Presented) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1 in which the distal ends of the legs are joined together as a V-shaped end portion.

58. (Previously Presented) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 16 in which the distal ends of the legs are joined together as a V-shaped end portion.

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59. (New) A locking mechanism for controlling engagement between parts movable relative to one another in medical sharp devices, the mechanism comprising: a retainer part for retaining a medical sharp, the retainer part having a first formation which is engageable with a second formation located on a body part of a medical sharp device and a connector part which is movable relative to the body part to a position in which the connector part and retainer part are in a mutually engaged configuration, wherein the connector part, during movement to the engaged configuration, is adapted to alter the relative engagement between the first and second formations to enable release of the retainer part from the body part, the retainer part including two flexible legs, each leg having a said first formation located thereon, the connector part being adapted to flex the legs, on engagement with the retainer part, to move the legs towards one another, the legs being integrally formed with the respective distal ends thereof being mutually joined together, the legs being arranged to disengage from the body part when moving toward one another.

60. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 59 in which the first formation and second formation comprise a lug and a recess, each being formed on or in one of the retainer part and the body part.

61. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 60 in which a pair of said lugs are provided on opposite sides of the retainer part and in which the recess comprises an internal annular recess in the body part.

62. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 59 in which the legs form a diamond shape.

63. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 59 in which each leg has an inner surface and an outer surface, the outer surface being longer than the inner surface.

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64. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 63 in which the inner surface is relatively flat and the outer surface is outwardly concave or relatively curved compared to the inner surface.

65. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 59 in which the connector part includes a bore into which at least part of the retainer part is insertable.

66. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 65 in which the bore includes an annular ledge at an entrance thereto, and in which the retainer part includes at least one connector protrusion for engagement behind the annular ledge.

67. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 66 in which two said connector protrusions are provided, the connector protrusions being adapted to engage the annular ledge asymmetrically.

68. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 67 in which each connector protrusion has a chamfered surface for riding over the annular ledge and an opposing step surface for engagement behind the ledge.

69. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 59 in which the retainer part is adapted to retain a hypodermic needle, the retainer part including an elongate bore passing therethrough, the bore being engageable with a cylindrical outer surface of a needle.

70. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 69 in which the elongate bore includes internal ribs for sealingly gripping a needle.

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71. (New) A locking mechanism for a medical device comprising a retainer part for retaining medical sharp devices, the retainer part including at least one connector portion thereof adapted for engagement against a body part of a medical sharp device, and a connector part, the connector part being adapted for movement to engage the connector portion for connection therewith, movement of the connector part once connected to the connector portion causing movement of the retainer part, the connector portion comprising two flexible legs, the connector part being adapted to flex the legs, on engagement with the connector portion, to move the legs towards one another, the legs being integrally formed with the respective distal ends thereof being mutually joined together, the legs being arranged to disengage from the body part when moving toward one another.

72. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 71 in which the legs are joined together in a diamond shape.

73. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 71 in which each said leg includes a formation adapted for engagement with a recess formed in the body part.

74. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 71 in which the connector part includes a generally cylindrically bore, the bore being adapted to receive each said leg on engagement of the connector part therewith.

75. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 74 in which the bore includes an annular ledge at an entrance thereto and each said leg includes a connector projection adapted to ride over the ledge past the ledge on insertion to the bore.

76. (New) A medical device including a needle assembly as claimed in claim 71.

77. (New) A medical device including a locking mechanism as claimed in claim 71.

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78. (New) A medical device as claimed in claim 77 which comprises a hypodermic needle device.

79. (New) A medical device as claimed in claim 78 which comprises a butterfly.

80. (New) A medical device as claimed in claim 77 which comprises a catheter.

81. (New) A medical device as claimed in claim 78 which comprises a hypodermic syringe and in which the retainer part is adapted to retain a hypodermic needle of the device and the connector part is mounted on a plunger of the syringe.

82. (New) A medical device as claimed in claim 81 in which the syringe includes a barrel, a conical shoulder portion at a forward end of a main cylindrical part of the barrel and a neck portion in front of the shoulder portion, the said second formation of the locking mechanism being formed internally in the neck portion.

83. (New) A medical device as claimed in claim 82 in which the neck portion of the barrel includes a front end and a rear end, the rear end being adjacent a front end of the shoulder portion, the second formation comprising an annular internal recess formed at the rear end of the neck portion.

84. (New) A medical device as claimed in claim 77 in which the retainer part is removably mounted on the body part of the device.

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85. (New) A medical device as claimed in claim 84 in which the retainer part is removably mounted on the body part of the device, and which includes a hub part for releasably sealably retaining the retainer part on the barrel of the syringe.

86. (New) A medical device as claimed in claim 85 in which the hub includes a stop surface for preventing forward movement of the retainer part relative to the barrel.

87. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 71 in which the distal ends of the legs are joined together as a V-shaped end portion.

88. (New) A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 71 in which the distal ends of the legs are joined together as a V-shaped end portion.